Cardano Virtual Summit, Shelley Edition Announcements

PRESS RELEASE

IOHK rolls out Shelley upgrade to Cardano ahead of public participation on the 7th July

- The biggest upgrade to the Cardano blockchain has begun, with the release of the "Shelley" code
- The upgrade will make the blockchain 100 times more decentralized than the Bitcoin blockchain, and capable of scaling to replace current global-scale financial systems
- Participants will be able to interact with the mainnet on the 7th July

July 2 2020 - Blockchain engineering company, IOHK, today confirms that it deployed the Shelley code on the Cardano mainnet on the 30th June, bringing the blockchain closer to achieving full decentralization, which will see the system being run by participants on the network. From July 7th, participants will be able to interact with the mainnet, and Ada holders can then begin to transfer their funds to an upgraded Shelley wallet, ready for staking rewards on the mainnet.

This node deployment contains all the Shelley logic and features, plus the hard fork combinator that will implement it all on mainnet, come the hard fork in late July. This is the first complete Shelley mainnet release with all key features included. With another milestone now successfully hit, IOHK is continuing to track against the rollout plan and is still on track to achieve the Shelley hard fork - and full decentralization, on July 29th.

Cardano is a third-generation blockchain, built to solve blockchain's long-standing problems of scalability, compatibility with other systems and currencies and the long-term governance of the system. Once launched, Cardano will become 100 times more decentralized than the Bitcoin blockchain.

Aparna Jue, Product Director at IOHK:
"The team has been hard at work to ensure Shelley is rolled out successfully, and on time. We're excited to continue to deliver on our promises, and for the community to be with us every step of the way."

Charles Hoskinson, CEO of IOHK, said: "The community has always been central in the development of Cardano,, so we're excited to be entering a new phase of the blockchain, with users more able than ever to participate in and shape the network."

“We look forward to celebrating this launch, and a few other exclusive announcements, at our virtual summit this Thursday and Friday.”

END

Notes for Editors

For more information, including interview opportunities, contact:

Media
media@iohk.io

About IOHK

IOHK is an R&D and product engineering company, committed to using peer-to-peer innovations to provide 21st century services to the 3bn who don’t have them.

We build blockchain based products for governments, corporations and academic institutions and upskill people across the world, empowering them to solve the most pressing problems faced by people in their countries.

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https://iohk.io/

PRESS RELEASE

IOHK develops Atala PRISM solution to broaden global access to services and combat data privacy and security breaches

- Decentralised identity solution aims to give 'unbanked' people a blockchain-based economic ID as a 'one-stop-shop' to financial and civic services
- Blockchain technology will boost consumer data privacy and security by offering users 'self-sovereign' digital identities, without BigTech intermediaries accessing, storing or sharing personal data
- As well as via mobile phone, the solution will be available with paper wallets or smart cards to enable low-income populations to store and share everything – from land deeds to health records – as well as access financial products like loans and insurance
- A pilot currently underway in Georgia will see employers able to verify graduate qualifications instantly.
- In Africa, farmers will be able to buy supplies and enable NGOs or other partners to join the network and prove the provenance of produce

July 2nd 2020 - IOHK, the engineering company behind the world's first blockchain based entirely on scientific peer review, have announced the launch of Atala PRISM, a decentralized identity system to give millions of 'unbanked' people self-sovereign identities and access to a blockchain marketplace of financial and social services.

Atala PRISM could also combat growing cyber-security and data privacy risks. By allowing people to share personal data securely using blockchain technology, users can create and control their own digital identities without third party technology providers or governments.

Decentralizing consumer identity management will disincentivize cyber attacks by widening the attack surface for hackers. IOHK aims to add 'selective disclosure' capabilities such as 'zero-knowledge proofs' allow consumers to verify everything from age to employment status using smart wallets without divulging non-essential data. Service-providers can also reduce corporate data privacy risks by rolling out serverless apps where personal data is stored on consumer devices.

Designed for compatibility with other blockchains and the inclusion of other ecosystems, it will also enable users to access Cardano, an open computing platform for building decentralized apps. The system will provide an alternative to closed systems such as Apple's app store. It could also create a new and wider marketplace for financial and social services by allowing millions of 'unbanked' people to verify their credentials and access services through mobile apps, smart cards and even paper wallets.

The technology could de-risk services such as investment and insurance across the developing world by digitally authenticating everything from land ownership to employment records for millions of ‘unbanked’ people. The ultimate vision is to widen economic inclusion and open up new markets by facilitating a new open ecosystem of app-based services accessible to users through any identity hub or device across the world.

The technology is part of a suite of enterprise-grade ‘layer 2’ software solutions designed to bring advanced, highly flexible functionality to blockchains. Other elements of the rapidly evolving Atala suite of products include some which provide traceability for supply chains and others that monitor movement of goods. These could bring traceability and transparency to developing world supply chains by enabling producers and NGOs with limited resources to create an immutable record of all goods from source to sale. An innovative Layer 2 ‘batching’ scheme which batches transactions off chain and anchors them back to the blockchain gives Atala the capacity to scale up to handle vast and continuous data traffic such as tracking fluctuating flows of goods across supply chains. A pilot in Ethiopia could also see farmers use blockchain to verify their land ownership and access government e-vouchers for agricultural supplies or even other services such as insurance.

Other applications include portable patient records, blockchain-based ‘track-and-trace’ of infections or ‘immunity passports’, enabling governments to digitalise I.Ds, civic records and certificates and streamlining customer acquisition for subscription and other services.

It could also reduce fragmentation of ‘smart city’ consumer services as well as reducing the risk of data theft by providing a single reusable blockchain ID granting universal access to city-wide services from transport to licensed venues. The digital wallets could ultimately drive a wave of new apps and provide integrated ‘one-stop-shop’ access to an array of services such as employment, insurance, travel or healthcare.

Charles Hoskinson, CEO of IOHK, said:

“PRISM could give almost 2 billion unbanked people an economic identity, track global goods from source to sale, and de-risk investment in emerging markets. In the wake of an increasing backlash against Silicon Valley firms over data privacy, this decentralised identity system gives people sovereignty over their data and reduces the risk of data privacy breaches for service-providers.

“As an open and inclusive system potentially accessible through simple cell phones or paper wallets, this could fuel a new wave of applications extending social and financial systems to millions worldwide.”

If you want to attend the summit, you can register for free and view the agenda here.

END

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About the Cardano Foundation

The Cardano Foundation is an independent body that oversees, promotes and supervises the advancement of Cardano and its ecosystem. As the custodian of the protocol and the owner of the Cardano brand, it works to drive adoption and partnerships, grow the community, shape legislation and commercial standards, and ensure stakeholder accountability. The Foundation's most crucial responsibility is driving adoption and implementing ideas on the Cardano platform. The Foundation is committed to working with key industries, contributing to the advancement of the technology and driving adoption with other systems. The Foundation contributes to the conversation and perception of blockchain, focusing on legislation, integration, awareness, and education – to ensure that blockchain can be accessed and understood by all.

www.CardanoFoundation.org

About EMURGO

EMURGO is a global blockchain technology company providing solutions for developers, startups, enterprises, and governments. EMURGO develops enterprise-grade applications, builds developer tools, invests in startups, and provides blockchain education. EMURGO has offices and manages projects in Singapore, Japan, the USA, India, and Indonesia. EMURGO is a founding member of the Cardano protocol. EMURGO leverages its expertise in blockchain R&D as well as its global network of related blockchain and industry partners to support ventures globally.

https://emurgo.io/en

PRESS RELEASE

IOHK makes surprise announcement of pending delivery date for Cardano's 'Voltaire' era.

'Project Catalyst' to give ada holders the power to vote on Cardano's future development

- Catalyst project will combine research into democracy models, groundbreaking industry-first social experiments and community consent to realise the vision of a fully decentralized treasury system
- The Voltaire era of Cardano is focused on the Cardano delivering a democratic governance model, enabling the Cardano community to make decisions about software updates, technical improvements and funding decisions and the broader long-term future of the system.Once delivered, the Cardano network will become a self-sustaining system.
- Project to roll out in 2020, with call for proposals to be announced in July

***July 2nd, 2020* -** Cardano, the third-generation blockchain, built to solve blockchain's long-standing problems of scalability, compatibility and long-term governance, has today announced the launch of Project Catalyst, an experimental fund and toolset designed ultimately to enable holders of Cardano's native token, ada, to propose and vote for funding proposals designed to develop the Cardano ecosystem.

The internally codenamed 'Project Catalyst' is a pilot programme, the results of which will inform the development of the final, fully decentralized treasury system. It is a major step in movinFg the 'Voltaire' phase of the Cardano roadmap, focused on implementing a democratoc governance system for the project, from research to reality, enabling Cardano to be a fully self-sustaining system.

The project will ultimately enable users to 'lock' an amount of Cardano's native cryptocurrency, ada, for a finite period, entitling them to vote on submitted proposals. The system has four components. These include the governance blockchain node, **Jörmungandr**; the **Catalyst Protocol**, a decentralized governance protocol and incentive system; the internally termed **Project Catalyst App**, a mobile voting app for IOS and Android, which includes a proposal submission system and finally '**Catalyst0, Catalyst1, Catalyst2',** a series of industry-first experiments designed to test the feasibility, usability and usefulness of a voting and funding system. Today's announcement signals the start of the Project Catalyst roll-out, with calls for proposals to be announced later in July.

The launch follows the recent announcement of the roll-out of the Cardano's Shelley-era functionality that will deliver full decentralization and will see the system being run by participants on the network.

Charles Hoskinson, CEO of IOHK said: "Ada holders need a simple process where they can directly influence the future of Cardano. This process needs to be fair, usable and lead to impactful funding decisions, something that to date hasn't been achieved by any other system in the industry. We'll be rolling this out in Q4 of this year.

"With a simple mobile interface and voter rewards, our community will be able fund initiatives they believe in. Project Catalyst primes us for Voltaire and is a huge step in fulfilling IOHK's promise of a decentralized, fair and impactful treasury system."

In keeping with its ethos of decentralization and desire to engage the community, IOHK is calling for feedback on the project and whether there is any scope for additional improvements.

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PRESS RELEASE

IOHK announces launch of Project Atlas to ensure seamless blockchain experience for Cardano users

Users will be able to trade funds, cast a vote or manage their digital identity in one streamlined experience

2nd July 2020 - IOHK, the leading blockchain research and development company developing the Cardano blockchain platform has announced the launch of Project Atlas, a project which aims to create a seamless user experience for Cardano users, when interacting with the blockchain.

The project aims to enhance the user experience of the platform and the integration of its services whilst making products and tools more accessible, as well as allowing users to check the health and state of the network and make informed voting/delegation based decisions.

It is envisaged that the platform will also allow users to fully utilise the power of the IO-designed blockchains, manage their self-sovereign identity, delegate stake or even manage their private data, all in one comprehensive manner. Some of the extended functionality will also include the ability to create alerts for trigger events on-chain and compare non-myoptic performance of stakepools, allowing users to delve into key metrics on status and distributions of stakepools.

Project Atlas will undergo a process of rapid prototyping, taking note of feedback from the Cardano community and helping continuously improve the IO product offering. The first release will be announced over the coming weeks.

Charles Hoskinson, CEO of IOHK said: "IO is playing a part in moving the world toward a decentralized civilization. As part of that process, we need to ensure that all members of society are able to use our platform and tools, irrespective of their means or available infrastructure. This means that our tools need to be more visual, more intuitive, and lighter, enabling users to access them via low-cost smartphones, for example.

"Our solution will not only tell users about blocks and transactions but also aggregated statistics, rewards, stakepool metrics and comparisons. With project Atlas, we are creating a platform where anyone can go and trade funds, cast a vote or manage their digital identity. This should seamlessly integrate with your desktop, mobile or browser."

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MEDIA ALERT

IOHK announces it will launch the 'cFund' in partnership with Wave Financial Group – the first venture fund to support the adoption of IOHK's blockchain platforms, including Cardano

2nd July 2020

- IOHK is pleased to announce that it is launching a technology ecosystem fund with Wave Financial Group ("Wave").
- The fund will make investments globally with a typical investment size of USD $250,000-$500,000.
- IOHK is initially committing $10M to anchor the new fund and Wave plans to raise a further minimum of $10M to create an initial size of $20M. This provides several years of runway to target seed and early-stage opportunities.
- The fund will support and invest in startup and early-stage businesses that build their products and services on IOHK's blockchain technologies, which include the Cardano blockchain platform as well as any new platforms that will be announced in the future.
- These solutions provide a diverse range of secure and scalable technologies for startups, enterprises, and governments to build upon, ranging from fully open-source to private platforms.
- The move aligns both firms' interests with Wave's ambition to drive its fund, treasury, venture capital, and wealth management further to become the industry's leading digital asset management group and IOHK to be the leading technology provider in the space.
- Wave is a regulated digital asset fund management and blockchain investment firm led by David Siemer.

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About Wave Financial

Wave Financial offers early-stage investment, asset management, treasury management and strategy consulting to further the growth of the crypto and digital asset ecosystem.(363 kB)

Wavegp.com